



GRANT RECIPIENT
LA PORTE COUNTY SOIL
AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

YEAR
2009

COUNTY
LA PORTE

CATEGORY
LOW COST CONSTRUCTION

GRANT AWARD
\$5,000

LOCAL SHARE
\$5,000



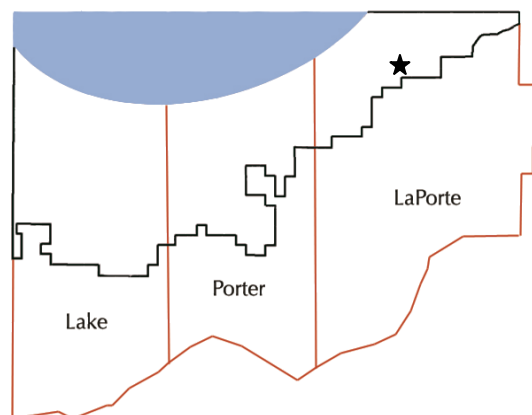
FOR MORE INFORMATION
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Chesterton, IN 46304
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www.in.gov/dnr/lakemich



Utilizing Plants to Protect Water Quality – A Community Approach

Developed interpretive signage and educational materials associated with the installation of conservation practice demonstration plots throughout the county, beginning with the LaPorte County Fairgrounds. These demonstrations allow residential homeowners, farmers and other land users to see first-hand the types of practices they can install and utilize to have a positive impact on water quality.

At the LaPorte County Fairgrounds, a rain garden, a native prairie and pollinator habitat, a wildlife food plot demonstration, rain barrels, a bird-friendly garden with pond and a shade garden were all installed. Off-site cover crop demonstration plots were installed at Westville High School and utilized by the Westville High School Natural Resource Management Class to help determine the effectiveness of each cover crop at scavenging nitrogen and helping to protect water quality. Each of these demonstrations has interpretive signage explaining the method of installation and the benefits to water quality and wildlife. The LaPorte County Fair gardens are utilized not only during the LaPorte County Fair (which reaches over 90,000 people) but through-out the year as a site for holding meetings and tours of the gardens.



RESULT: Interpretive signage and educational materials for educational plots in LaPorte County.